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No. 1. The larger one, which I take to have been a male, exhibits all the more striking negro characters in its physiognomy. The narrow forehead, dolichocephalic skull, square orbits, and especially the markedly prognathic maxilla, are as well developed as in any ordinary negro from the Gold Coast. The spread of the temporal muscle, and the prominence of the supraoccipital bone, likewise accord with the conventional definitions assigned to the negro skull. The friable condition of the bones has precluded my bisecting the skull vertically, so as to arrive at a precise estimation of the angle of the foramen magnum. The sutures are obliterated to a great extent; and sufficient of the nasal bone remains to show it was flattened. The teeth in place are solid, and in good condition; the right upper canine has been conical in form, and its posterior surface, as well as part of that of the left premolar, has been worn away by the abrasion of the tooth immediately behind it in the series. The peculiar character which differentiates this skull from those of the majority of negroes with which I am acquainted, is the great breadth of the palate, which is deeply excavated, and to which the oblique implantation of the incisors gives a very remarkable appearance.

No. 2. The smaller size and less development of the muscular processes, may lead us to infer that this specimen belonged to a female, but to an individual of greater age, as indicated by the condition of the sutures. All the characters observable in the large skull accord with those in this specimen, with the exception of the nasal bones, which are here more elevated.

From an examination of the above skulls, according to my interpretation, there is no character which would lead us to consider that they belonged to any other race than the negro, viewed under his most favourable conditions, so far as regards food and freedom from disease. I can detect nothing approaching the "European" type; nothing superior to that of many well-fed negroes which I have seen from Ashanti.

C. CARTER BLAKE.

The thanks of the meeting having been voted to the authors of the paper,

The PRESIDENT said that though the communication from Captain Burton was short, it was interesting; and the two skulls that accompanied it would form a valuable addition to the Society's museum. There could be no doubt they were very interesting specimens; and he hoped they should be favoured with more of the same kind, so as to be better enabled to appreciate their character.

Dr. THURNAM read a paper on "The Two Principal Forms of Crania amongst the Early Britons," which will appear in the *Memoirs* of the Society.

Several skulls, taken from the barrows which Dr. Thurnam had opened, were placed on the table to illustrate the different characters of the skulls mentioned in the paper; and there were also exhibited a number of photographs of the various skulls discovered, intended for illustrations of the forthcoming part of "Crania Britannica." Dr.

Thurnam further pointed out, in one of the photographs, an instance of deformity supposed to be produced by posthumous pressure.

The PRESIDENT observed that the paper was most interesting and exhaustive; and he had no doubt the meeting would be anxious to return their thanks to the author.

Mr. W. BOLLAERT said that he had seen several similar instances of cranial deformity in Peruvian skulls.

Mr. P. O'CALLAGHAN inquired whether any experiments had been made to ascertain the relative internal capacities of the two kinds of skulls described?

Dr. THURNAM replied that such experiments had been made in every instance, and the internal capacities were fully given in tables in the work before referred to. The material employed for the purpose was dried sand, which, he believed, was better than shot or other materials that have been sometimes used for such measurements. As a general result, he believed it would be found that the long (dolichocephalic) skulls were of larger capacity than the round (brachycephalic) ones.

Mr. CARTER BLAKE observed that the paper was, as the President had observed, so exhaustive of the subject that, in his present state of health, he should merely put a few questions to Dr. Thurnam, with the object of developing a few points, and would reserve all future observations on the general question of British craniology. Dr. Thurnam's remarks had been restricted to skulls within the so-called historic period, and to the remains found with them; but there were other ancient British remains, which were alleged, on grounds which he (Mr. Blake) in many cases did not recognise, to belong to a more ancient period. Great stress had been laid by Professor Daniel Wilson on a skull that had been found at Montrose, which he regarded as a type of the old brachycephalic skulls of the ancient Celts. A similar skull was discovered at Kellet in Lancashire, which had slight supra-ciliary ridges. It nevertheless belonged to the round type of skulls; but it differed strongly from the skulls described by Dr. Thurnam this evening. He alluded also to such skulls as that from Mewslade, which Professor Busk had described, which was flattened at the vertex, with the occipital region produced and the frontal region depressed. At Muskhams in the Trent Valley, in a peat-bed, a skull had been found accompanied with the bones of *Bos longifrons*, and even with those of *Bos primigenius*; but all these skulls seemed to be of the same type. The author of the paper had called attention to cases in which different kinds of skulls were found in close proximity. There were several in the British Museum from Etruscan burial-places, which had been found together, wherein similar differences could be observed; and Dr. Pruner-Bey mentioned having observed like differences between associated skulls in the Abruzzi. In one of the skulls of the old Etrurian bone cave a post-coronal depression was observed, and in those of the river-beds also there was the same peculiarity. The ancient skulls found on the Cheviots were to a certain extent of the brachycephalic character; and Mr.

Tate, of Alnwick—founding his opinion not on cranial developments alone, but on that of archæological evidence—considered them to be those of the original Celts. He (Mr. Blake) should like to have Dr. Thurnam's opinion as to the relation of the old skulls in river-beds to those described that evening. He was glad to hear that Dr. Thurnam deprecated the theory of a connection between the ancient Basques and the occupants of the north-east of Europe. Such notions were from time to time put forth; and he (Mr. Blake) had recently been reading the small and superficial *Manual of Ethnology* of Mr. Brace, professing to treat on the subject of ethnology, in which much stress was laid on a supposed connection between the Basques and the Laplanders. He should also like to have the opinion of Dr. Thurnam respecting the Guanches of the Canary Islands. For his own part, after examination of the few Guanches skulls at his disposal (a number, of course, far inferior to those of Basques which M. Broca had examined), he saw no connection between the Guanches and the Basques, and they appeared to be *sui generis*. As to the cases of supposed posthumous distortion in Peruvian skulls, which had been noticed by Mr. Bollaert, he must say that he had never seen such a case, and very much doubted if such had any foundation in actual observation. The distortions of all the skulls he had seen from Peru, which he had described in a paper laid before the Ethnological Society, had been produced artificially during life; and the result of the distortion was, that the brain-case had been much minimised, all such skulls being of a very low rank, if we took such a table of the cranial capacities of different races of man as that cited by Vogt, on more or less accurate data.

Dr. THURNAM, in reply to the questions put to him by Mr. Blake, said that his impression was, that the bone-cave skulls and the river-bed skulls described by Professor Busk, Mr. Carter Blake, Professor Huxley, and other observers, were dolichocephalic, and they had both been pointed out as having post coronal depressions. With respect to the period to which the skulls belonged, his opinion was that, unless archæological evidence could be added to that of cranial developments, the question of age must be left very much in the dark. With respect to the skulls found in the Cheviots, he had no doubt that they were of the ancient British period and Celtic. As to the Guanches, he must say that he felt at a loss respecting them. The preponderating character of those skulls was dolichocephalic, and it was reasonable to suppose a connection between the former inhabitants of the Canary Islands and the neighbouring African population.

The meeting was then adjourned to the 3rd of May.

TUESDAY, MAY 3rd, 1864.

DR. JAMES HUNT, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

The names of the following twenty-five Fellows elected since the previous meeting were read:—R. Johnson, Esq.; Dr. T. Williams; C. Jervise, Esq.; J. E. Killick, Esq.; W. H. Mitchell, Esq.; H.